

Message Text

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PAGE 01 HELSIN 02523 011514Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00
PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 ACDA-12 EB-08 FEA-01
/061 W

-----047238 012246Z /75

R 011350Z NOV 77
FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2023
INFO USIA WASHDC
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

UNCLAS HELSINKI 2523

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PROP, FI

SUBJECT: FINNISH SOCIAL DEMOCRATS COME OUT AGAINST "NEUTRON BOMB"

1. IN ITS LEAD EDITORIAL ON OCTOBER 27, SOSIALIDEMOKRATTI, OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY (SDP), ISSUED AN UNEQUIVOCAL ATTACK ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE "NEUTRON BOMB." NOTING THAT FINLAND GENERALLY HAS SOUGHT TO REMAIN OUTSIDE OF CONFLICTS BETWEEN THE SUPERPOWERS, THE EDITORIAL STATES THERE ARE A NUMBER OF ISSUES OF WAR AND PEACE ON WHICH FINLAND CANNOT REMAIN A BYSTANDER. THE EDITORIAL THEN ATTACKS THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NEUTRON BOMB ON THE GROUNDS THAT IT DIMINISHES THE BORDERLINE BETWEEN NUCLEAR ARMS AND COVENTIONAL WEAPONS AND LOWERS THE THRESHOLD FOR THE USE OF NUCLEAR ARMS. THE EDITORIAL PLACES RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE TECHONOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE NEUTRON BOMB ON THE UNITED STATES BUT ALSO BLAMES RIGHT-WING AND MILITARY CIRCLES IN WESTERN EUROPE FOR WELCOMING IT. THE EDITORIAL REJECTS THE ARGUMENT THAT

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THE BOMB IS A "MORE HUMANE ALTERNATIVE" TO CONVENTIONAL NUCLEAR ARMS, SAYING THAT "IT CAN BE DESCRIBED AS A STEP OF PROGRESS ONLY BY THOSE WHO ARE BOTH PROPERTY CONSCIOUS AND ALIENATED FROM ALL BASIC HUMAN VALUES, WHICH IS NO COMPATIBLE WITH SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLES."

2. SDP CHAIRMAN, PRIME MINISTER KALEVI SORSA, ECHOED

THE SOSIALIDEMOKRATTI EDITORIAL VIEWS IN HIS SPEECH AT A JOINT SEMINAR HELD OVER THE WEEKEND BY THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF THE SOVIET UNION AND THE SDP. THE JOINT SEMINAR WAS ONE OF THE NUMEROUS FINNISH/SOVIET EVENTS SCHEDULED IN CONNECTION WITH THE RESPECTIVE 60TH ANNIVERSARIES OF THE SOVIET OCTOBER REVOLUTION AND FINLAND'S INDEPENDENCE.

3. WITH RESPECT TO OTHER REACTION IN FINLAND CONCERNING THIS ISSUE, OVER THE PAST SEVERAL WEEKS THERE HAS BEEN A CLEARLY ORGANIZED CAMPAIGN BY COMMUNIST GROUPS ATTACKING THE NEUTRON WEAPON. NUMEROUS ARTICLES AND EDITORIALS HAVE APPEARED IN THE COMMUNIST PRESS. IN ADDITION THE EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED SCORES OF POSTCARDS AND LETTERS FROM LEFT-WING POLITICAL, LABOR, STUDENT, WOMEN AND PEACE ORGANIZATIONS ATTACKING THE NEUTRON WEAPON, INCLUDING ONE PETITION WITH SEVERAL THOUSAND SIGNATURES. THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS ARE THE FIRST POLITICAL GROUP IN FINLAND, EXCEPT FOR THE COMMUNISTS, TO COME OUT PUBLICLY AGAINST THE NEUTRON WEAPON. THERE HAS NOT BEEN INTENSIVE MEDIA ATTENTION GIVEN TO THE ISSUE, AGAIN EXCEPT FOR THE COMMUNIST PRESS. ONE FAIRLY OBJECTIVE NEWS FEATURE PROGRAM ON THE NEUTRON WEAPON WAS SHOWN ON FINNISH TELEVISION ON OCTOBER 28.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SOCIAL DEMOCRATS
Control Number: n/a
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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Format: TEL
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Line Count: 95
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Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 420689
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FINNISH SOCIAL DEMOCRATS COME OUT AGAINST "NEUTRON BOMB"
TAGS: PINT, PROP, FI
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/a768350f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009